

# **Union County Health Department**

## **Annual Report 2001-2002**



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Dear County Residents,

The following report by the Union County Health Department states the statistics for services in 2001-2002. For a comprehensive report with program descriptions, trends, and public health challenges, access the web at [www.co.union.nc.us](http://www.co.union.nc.us) and view the 2000-2001 report.

Your Health Department works hard to provide excellent services to accomplish our mission -- promote health, prevent disease, and protect the health of the community. You, as citizens of Union County, can be proud of your public health program.

Union County is the fastest growing county in the state of North Carolina and is struggling with many challenges in order to serve its residents. The Health Department has made many changes in order to meet the needs of the growing Hispanic community, the increased threat of communicable disease, the growing demands on the water supply, the increased public school attendance, the building boom, increased demands for services in the Animal Control Division, and a record high enrollment for the Women, Infants and Children Program. The Department continues to work diligently to serve Union County.

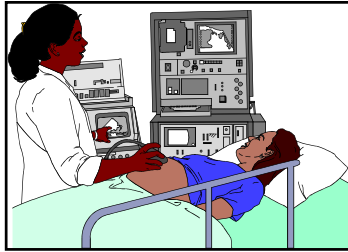
Thank you for taking the time to review the many programs of the Union County Health Department for the fiscal year 2001-2002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorey H. White, Jr." followed by a stylized flourish.

**Lorey H. White, Jr.**  
**Health Director**

## Maternal Health



The Clinic served 853 patients in 2001-2002. 318 of these were high risk (111 white, 81 black, 121 Hispanic, and 5 other). The social workers provided maternal care coordination services for 215 clients providing a total of 1090 counseling sessions.

Maternal health provided 469 postpartum home visits, 650 ultrasounds, 1810 Pap smears, 428 nonstress tests, and 574 pregnancy tests. The clinic is 42% Hispanic, 32% white, 22% black and 4% other. There were a total of 482 deliveries for Health Department maternity patients.

The need for interpreters continued to increase, and a new position was established for the Health Department for 2002-2003. There is still a need for more interpreters.

## Child Health



Well Child Clinic provided 1,699 visits in 2001-2002. (58% of these visits were for children under one year of age.) The clinic was 52 % Hispanic, 25% black and 23% white. Child Health saw 1,521 patients for primary care (sick visits). 469 postpartum/newborn home visits were made (213 for English speaking and 256 for Spanish speaking requiring an interpreter).

The Well Child Clinic provided 529 blood lead tests. Thirteen cases of confirmed elevated lead were investigated – 2 of these were for levels over 20 (lead poisoning).

Parenting classes, provided by the Parenting Coalition, were offered most Tuesday nights for a total of 48 classes and total attendance of 783. The classes went to a different format in 2001 offering more classes, and attendance increased from 296 (FY 2000-2001) to 783 (FY 2001-2002).

Counseling was provided for 5 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths in the County in fiscal year 2001-2002.

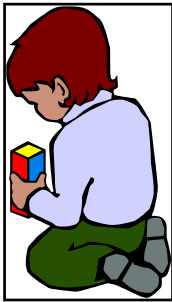
Smart Start provides screenings at full-time licensed daycare centers. 722 children and 134 teachers at 28 day care centers were served. (The position was vacant during the second quarter.) The following screenings and referrals were made:

Developmental/speech 576 (referred 40)	Vision 673 (referred 35)	Auditory 616 (referred 24)
Dental 548 (referred 34)	Lead 56 (referred 2)	

The Child Fatality Prevention Team of Union County investigated all 28 deaths that occurred for children 0 to 18 in the year 2001-2002. The process over the past few years has identified a need for parenting classes in Spanish, and work through the Latino Task Force has resulted in classes to be offered in 2003.

The Union County Health Department provides triage services for all its clients and provides general health information for the community. Approximately 5,500 calls were answered in FY 2001-2002.

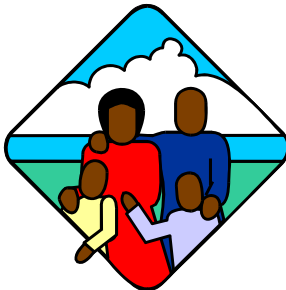
## **Child Service Coordination**



The Child Service Coordination program had an average caseload of 291 cases to follow monthly. In the FY 2001-2002 there were 250 new referrals and 278 cases closed. The majority of closures were because the parent discontinued participation or the child aged out of the program.

The program served 58% males and 42% females; 49% White, 21% Hispanic, 30% Black; 0-11 months - 26%, 12-23 months - 22%, 24-35 months - 19%, 36-47 months - 15%, 48-59 months - 18%; and 76% Medicaid, 24% non-Medicaid. 142 were eligible for the Infant Toddler Program and received extensive screening, tracking, counseling, and referral services. The active caseload at the beginning of the fiscal year addressed 773 risk factors. The highest number had developmental delay, followed by respiratory distress (mechanical ventilator > 6 hours), potential high risk, gestational age < 32 weeks, birth weight < 1500 grams, and difficulty in providing basic parenting.

## **Family Planning**



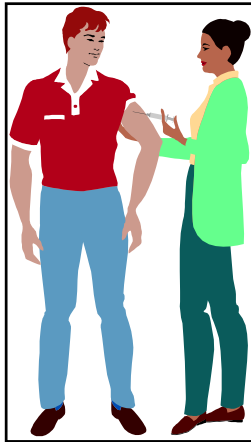
The Family Planning Clinic served 1,433 patients (616 chose pills, 146 foam and condom, 3 IUD, 590 Depo-provera, 11 Norplant, 19 tubal ligations, and 4 vasectomies) in 2001-2002. Of these, 274 were new to the clinic. 1,433 Pap Smears were done with an additional 525 repeat Paps, 88 colposcopies, and 10 cryotherapies. The clinic patients are 33.6% white, 40.3% Hispanic, 25.9% Black, and .2% Indian.

## **Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP)**



98 women participated in the program receiving breast exams, mammograms, and Pap smears as often as deemed necessary. 61 of these women participated in the Wise Woman Program, which offers screenings and healthy lifestyles information. (Not all BCCCP patients were eligible for the Wise Woman Program).

## Communicable Disease Control



Eleven types of vaccines were given in 2001-2002 with a total of 10,543 immunizations. Hepatitis B represents 37% of the vaccinations; diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), acellular pertussis (whooping cough) represents 12%; inactivated polio, 11%; haemophilus influenza type B, 10%; and pneumococcal pcv7, 7%.

105 communicable diseases were investigated. 41% were Salmonella; 13%, Campylobacter; 12%, Hepatitis A; 10%, Hepatitis B carriers; 1%, Vancomycin resistant enterococcus; and 23% represented by 12 different diseases.

In the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic, 3 were treated for syphilis, 112 for gonorrhea, and 152 for chlamydia. 287 HIV tests were done and 140 returned in 45 days for the post-test counseling. There were 4 identified with AIDS, and 8 more were HIV positive.

In 2001-2002, 1,394 TB skin tests were administered. Three new cases of TB were found. There were 145 patients with latent TB infection requiring a total of 761 visits (540 required an interpreter). There were 1,539 TB patients who received a total of 3,553 visits. 167 chest X-rays were done. The total number of visits for directly observed therapy was 987 (866 required an interpreter). A State grant provided \$10,000 for an interpreter and computer for the program.

## Dental Health

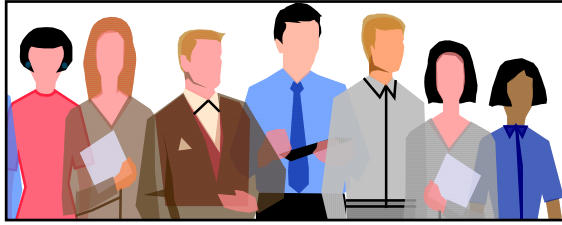


The North Carolina Oral Health Section provides a Public Health Dental Hygienist to serve Union County citizens with a community-based dental health program. In the FY 2001-2002, 3,418 school age children, 106 preschool children, and 300 adults received programs. All kindergarten and fifth grade students in the Union County Public Schools and the charter school, Union Academy, were screened – 3,729 students. 322 referrals were made. The dental hygienist coordinates and monitors the once weekly fluoride mouthrinse program in 12 elementary schools. 6,001 children were participants in 2001-2002.

The Children's Dental Clinic served 1,805 patients in 2001-2002. A part-time dental assistant was added to the staff. The following services were provided:

- Exams 1078
- X-rays 403
- Prophylaxis and Fluoride 974
- Sealants 570
- Extractions 276
- Endodontic (root canal) treatment 96
- Fillings 1,535
- Stainless steel crowns 75

## Health Education



The Health Education Division was formed in 2001-2002. A full time health educator position was established and the existing part-time (.5 FTE) Health Promotions health educator position was filled in October of 2001. The new focus of the Health Promotions position is to gather

tobacco and health information, participate in various workshops in the State and region, serve on the Union County Substance Abuse Task Force, and write grants for a tobacco prevention and control program in Union County. The Division will submit a grant proposal to the Teen Tobacco Use Prevention Program through the Health and Wellness Trust Fund, which allocates funds from the North Carolina tobacco settlement dollars. Requests for Proposals were available in August of 2002. The Health Promotions health educator also participated in the Healthy Lifestyles committee of Union United for Better Health and became chair of that group. Direct interventions provided were:

- Color Me Healthy – a collaborative program with NC Extension Service providing nutrition information for preschool children presented to directors and staff of preschool programs (attendance 43)
- A Day in the Park – tobacco prevention and cessation educational materials provided (approximately 2,000 attended)

The general health educator coordinated *Union County Diabetes Today* which provided eighteen interventions with a total attendance of 449 including a new Diabetes and Youth Program; coordinated with the Health Department Supervisory staff to provide an agency



networking luncheon (attendance 45); and participated in the Latino Task Force, Union United for Better Health Healthy Lifestyles Committee and Steering Committee, and the Parenting Coalition. A Health Department services brochure was developed, and a 52 page comprehensive 2000-2001 annual report was compiled which included health department statistics, trends, and public health challenges. The report is on the web at [www.co.union.nc.us](http://www.co.union.nc.us).

The general health educator wrote and received the following grants:

1. \$10,000 from the General Communicable Disease Control Branch, TB Control Program, of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, for interpreter services for the Union County TB program and purchase of a computer.
2. \$10,635 from the March of Dimes Chapter Community Grants, in collaboration with Union County Partnership for Children, to provide education concerning folic acid and provide vitamins with folic acid for family planning clients at the Union County Health Department.
3. \$16,000 from Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, Inc. for contracted interpreter services for the WIC program.
4. \$29,539 from Carolinas Community Health Institute for year-long healthy lifestyle interventions in two local churches. The program plan developed is called the LIFE program (Laughter, Inspiration, Food and Exercise).

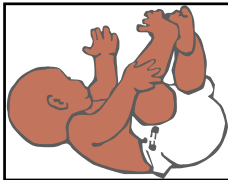


## Laboratory Division



The Laboratory Division performed 22,006 procedures in house. In addition, phlebotomy procedures were done for 9,597 clients; and analysis was completed at other labs. 465 water samples were tested for the Environmental Health Division.

## Vital Records



In 2001-2002, 2,324 birth certificates were issued and 873 death certificates were completed in the County.

## Women, Infants and Children (WIC)



The average WIC Program participation was 2,858 persons per month. The clinic was 37.1% Hispanic, 34.6% White, 27.5% Black, and .7% Other. A Sisters of Mercy grant for \$16,000 for a contracted interpreter was approved for the fiscal year 2002-2003.

WIC established a Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program, funded by Union County Partnership for Children, which provided 63 classes, distributed 754 packets, and provided 1,019 contacts in the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The August, 2002, breastfeeding initiation rate was 72% (well above the State average). The 1997-1998 initiation rate was 25.8%.



WIC has 21 vendors and 3 pharmacies that serve its clients. The food vouchers redeemed account for a total of over \$1.5 million annually.

## Environmental Health



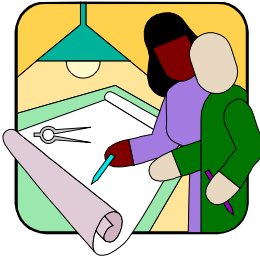
### Food, Lodging and Institution Program

In 2001-2002 environmental health specialists made 1692 compliance evaluations of food and lodging establishments. 73% of the evaluations were for restaurants, food stands, meat markets, limited food units, college cafeteria, and Nutrition for the Elderly

sites. Foster/Therapeutic Care Inspections were no longer mandated in May of 2001.

The National Restaurant Association food worker education program, ServSafe, was taught to 35 people. “Germbusters” was taught to 35 at After School Programs. “Hooray for Handwashing” was taught to 98 children at child care centers.

### **On-Site Wastewater Program**



786 wastewater systems were permitted in Union County in 2001-2002 (pump to conventional, 298; modified conventional, 286; innovative system, 128; and low pressure system, 74). 44 systems were repaired. Union County has 4,421 alternative systems that require inspections (more than any county in the State except Brunswick). These mandated inspections required more manpower than available, and the County is not in compliance. Two new positions were approved for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

### **Additional Environmental Health Programs**

494 well permits were issued, and 711 water samples were taken (bacterial, 465; inorganic, 209; nitrate, 17; petroleum, 12; and pesticide, 8).

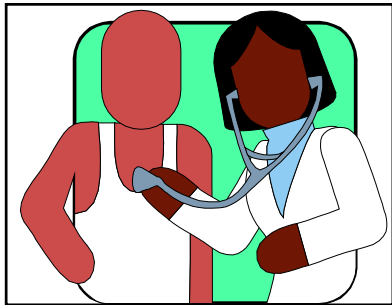
The Division responded to 48 vector complaints and 67 solid waste complaints.



Fourteen lead investigations were completed including 4 involving blood lead levels 20 and over (lead poisoning).

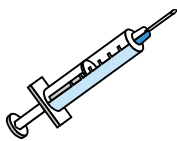
### **School Health Nursing**

A need had been identified for more school health nurses, but in 2001-2002 no new positions were added. The American Nurses' Association recommends a ratio for a nurse to students of 1:750. In 2000-2001 the ratio was 1:3635 and in 2001-2002, 1:3847.



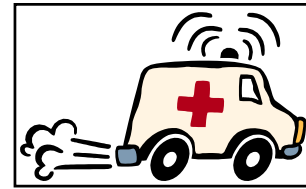
School health nurses supervised the medications for 607 PRN/emergency medicines, 1206 on short-term (less than 3 weeks) medicines, and 402 students on long term medications. 296 students received specialized health care including 44% Epi-pens/epinephrine injection, 34% diabetes related, 15% nebulizer treatment, and 7% other (including 2 tube feeding).

Each year the school nurses join with health department staff to provide hepatitis B and tetanus/diphtheria vaccine to sixth grade students. In 2001-2002, 1103 students received the first hepatitis B vaccine, 1080 students received the second dose, and 1082 received the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine. Sixth graders were not vaccinated against tetanus/diphtheria due to national shortages in vaccine.





There were 107 injuries which required EMS response or immediate care by a physician or dentist and caused loss of ½ or more days of school. There were an estimated 6,000 injuries requiring first aid in the school year. One injury required law enforcement intervention.



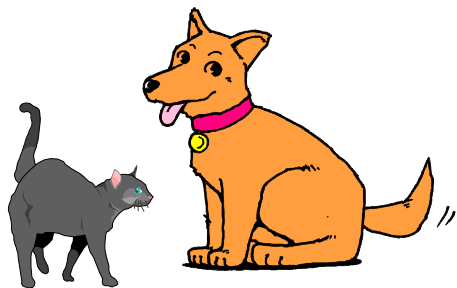
The School Health Nurses provided counseling on an individual basis for 1269 students. 65% were concerning injury/sickness which occurred at home, 13% on puberty, hygiene or reproductive health, 6% concerning child abuse or neglect, 6% concerning pregnancy, 4% involving violence or bullying, and 3% other. There were 23 known pregnancies (2 dropped out of school and 11 received homebound services). There was one attempted suicide in 2001-2002. There were 2761 students with known health conditions, the most prevalent conditions being asthma and ADD/ADHD. The nurses provided screening for 37,860 students [38.2% pediculosis (lice), 35.5% vision, 19.6% height and weight, 4.9% dental, 1.3% spinal, and .5% other].



267 health education presentations were given by school health nurses in 2001-2002. The program, Open Airways (an asthma education program), was taught to 26 students. School Health Nurses helped with a Day in the Park, a drug-free celebration providing information about substance abuse; provided *Girls on the Run*, a physical activity and self-esteem program coordinated by Union United for Better Health in which approximately 150 girls participated; and implemented a SOS High School Suicide Prevention Program for 9<sup>th</sup> graders at one high school. 52 home visits were made.

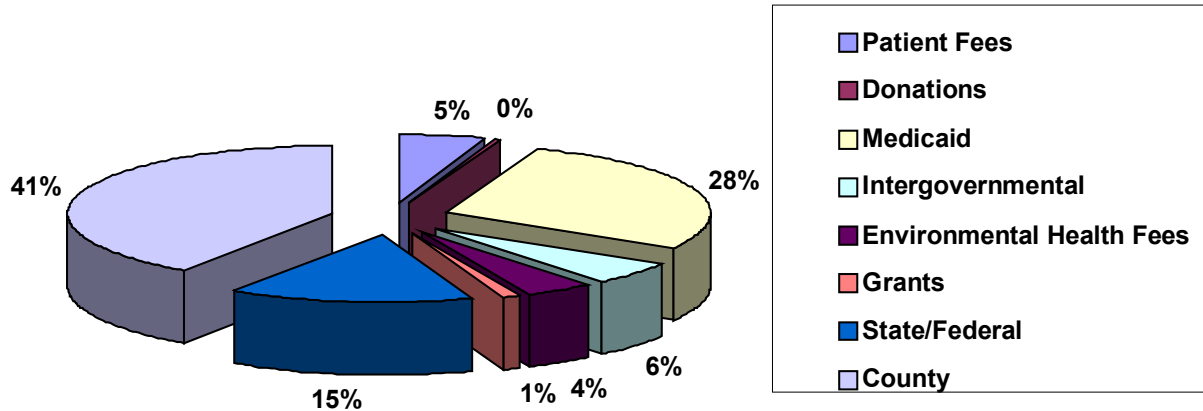
## Animal Control

Animal Control answered 11,933 calls in the 2001-2002 fiscal year. A need had been identified for more personnel, but no addition staff was approved. The Animal Shelter impounded 7,182 animals (3,223 cats and 3,959 dogs). 1,986 animals were adopted (28% rate) and 5,196 were euthanized. All animals adopted from the shelter have been neutered or spayed, but more community-wide efforts would help reduce the numbers of animals impounded.

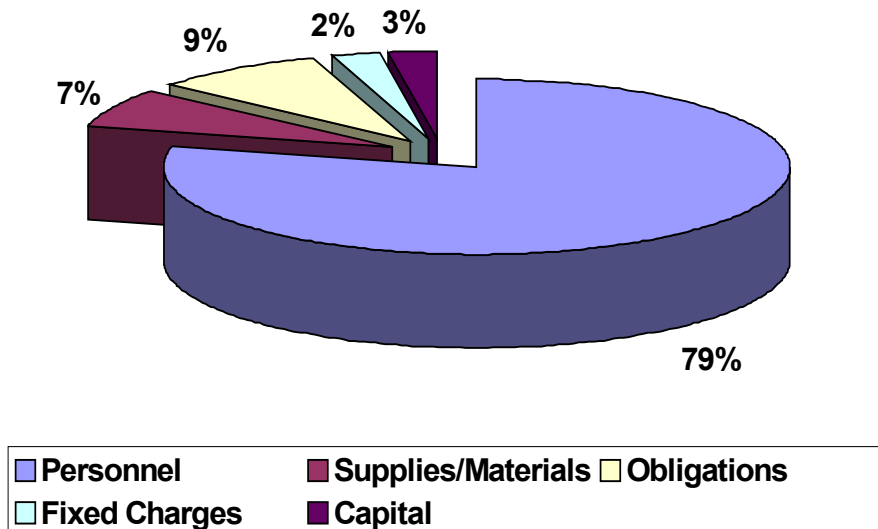


The annual rabies clinic was held and approximately 3,100 pets were vaccinated. In 2001-2002, 8 animals tested positive for rabies. There were 296 animal bites (191 dogs, 97 cats, 2 squirrels, 2 raccoons, 1 ferret, 1 rat, 1 rabbit, and 1 prairie dog) reported and handled properly according to North Carolina law.

**Union County Health Department  
Total Revenues FY 2001-2002  
\$5,478,196.40**



**Union County Health Department  
Total Expenditures FY 2001-2002  
\$5,478,196.40**



Obligations includes travel, utilities, telephone, postage, maintenance and repairs, and contracted staff. Fixed charges includes rental of equipment, dues, and memberships. Capital expenses includes equipment over \$2,000 (such as motor vehicles). Any unexpended funds from Federal, State or County sources are returned at the end of the fiscal year.

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**2001-2002**

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Union County Health Department  
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# *Public Health*

*Everyday, Everywhere, Everybody*

Union County Health Department  
Monroe, N. C.

Jane Harrington, Health Education Division